The Iowa Collector

Official Publication of the
Iowa Numismatic Association

The Iowa Numismatic Association
Established in 1938



In This Issue

The Tools of a Professional Coin Grader

By: Steve Feltner

Fall & Winter 2020
Volume 61 Number 3

ia.anaclubs.org

IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION'S

82nd Annual

COIN SHOW & CONVENTION

October, 10th - 11th 2020

Saturday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
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The Iowa Collector

Official Publication / Iowa Numismatic Association

Volume 61, Number 3 September 2020

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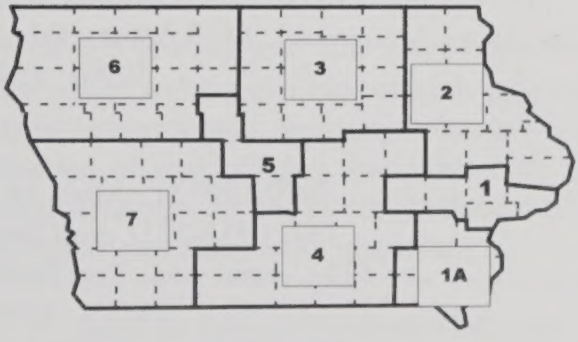
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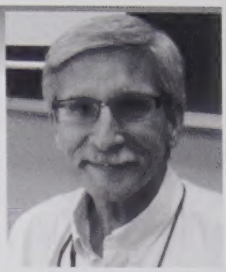
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(641) 932-2731 den72ny@gmail.com

From the Editor

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Iowa Collector*? The editor welcomes news of club happenings in the *Iowa Numismatic Associations* region. Send any information on your upcoming coin show, election of new officers and other club news and articles, prepared by club members, to the Editor. Include any photographs with your article, to make your story more interesting.

Send to: Editor, *The Iowa Collector*
7079 189th Street
Albia, IA 52531-8771

Presidents Message



David Stark

Have Fun with your Hobby! (Again)

"The numismatist thinks of nothing but rare coins, muses on them, dreams of them. His enjoyment involves all species of pleasure and mental excitement. He is a sportsman, a gamester, an artist, a detective, a critic, an expert. He follows the scent of a rare coin as a hound does that of a rabbit, and is never satisfied till he has traced it to its burrow. The passions excited are ambition, hope, desire and envy, but never to any extent to be injurious."
The Numismatist (July 1890)

With "extra" time on our hands the past few months, I hope some of you took time to re-ignite interests and review your collections and learned something new! I took time to review, update documentation, and photograph my main collection. Now I have everything at my fingertips (on my phone photos folders). What did you do while meetings and shows were cancelled? Like many businesses, we need to incorporate the adjustments we have made permanently. Take time to organize your library and collections. The zoom meeting format should continue even after in person meetings resume so at home members can still participate. More on line "shows" and sales sites should continue. Continue and expand on line research and readings (Newman Numismatic Portal).

Show and Club Meetings are starting up again. The Ames Coin Club has been holding regular Zoom meetings which have been fun and informative. They will be holding live meetings again as soon as their meeting place opens and allows. The Fort Dodge Club has had several in person meetings, with auctions, doing a great job at social distancing and wearing masks. Good job!

The INA Show is scheduled for October (see details in this issue). This years Show promises to be one of the best ever. In a different venue (but familiar to us old timers), slightly smaller, but will more than satisfy our pent up enthusiasm. There will be a "YN show" adjacent to the main bourse, for a real family atmosphere to spark that interest in coins and history in our young folks. So, come and enjoy the coins in hand again, catch up with fellow numismatists, and participate in talks and see the exhibits. We will be honoring CDC guidelines. Masks and hand sanitizer will be furnished and strongly recommended. We believe we can have a very safe and successful show. With the"new normal" safety measures:

It's time to enjoy our hobby, again!

David Stark
INA President

From The Secretary's Desk



Beverly Ashton

Hello from Fort Dodge. Wow! It feels like our world has been turned upside down. It really is hard to tell which side is up. When the Governor shut Iowa down March 17 we wondered how long this would last and how soon we could get back to normal. I'm still not sure anyone knows when this will all end.

Covid-19 struck fast on the metals market. First it dropped dramatically, with crazy premiums to go along with the lower prices. Now the prices have gone crazy, with the new premiums still in place. Just trying to keep up with the markets is our new normal.

Chris Seuntjens has worked really hard to put together the INA Convention & Coin Show for this year. Right now we are set to have our show Oct. 10-11 at the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay in Des Moines. I always say see you at the show, but if your health keeps you at home, please take care of yourself and we will see you down the road. Be safe, stay healthy

Beverly Ashton
INA Secretary/Treasurer

INA Board and Membership Meeting Dates

The INA officers hold three board meetings each year and one open membership meeting. These meetings are held in conjunction with a coin show. The annual board meeting is held during the INA's Annual Coin Show & Convention which is hosted by a different Coin Club each year. The INA's officers board meeting is held the evening of the first day of the INA coin show and the open membership meeting is conducted on the morning of the second day of the INA coin show.

Regular INA Board meetings:
October 10, 2020 at Annual INA Show, Des Moines, Iowa
October 11, 2020 Open membership meeting, Des Moines, Iowa

Old Capitol Coin Club

Coin Show

& Coin Raffle

Sunday December 13, 2020

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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From The Editors desk



Denny Ross

Trust that you all are healthy and safe from this terrible COVID 19 Pandemic.

Some things and events are beginning to open up. As of this writing the 82nd INA Annual Convention & coin Show is scheduled to go ahead in October on the 9th, 10th and 11th. The show is being held at a different location this year, the Holiday Inn on Merle Hay Road. Be sure and check the flyer in this issue of The Collector for the location and times. You want to be sure and attend the show and at least one, or both, of the two seminars that are being held on Saturday afternoon.

Chris and the Des Moines Coin Club have worked tirelessly to get everything in order so that you have a safe and fun time at the show this year.

Look forward to seeing many of you at he show.

Dean Oakes

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Financial Statement — Oct 19, 2019 - Feb 22. 2020

Starting Balance	INA Regular
	$2623.79
Receipts	
INA ½ of Show	905.90
Donation	500.00
Dues	340.00
Ads	20.00
Interest	.91
	1,766.81
Expenses	
ICTA Dues	200.00
Returned Collectors	10.85
Ottumwa Printing	935.43
Mosaic Project	200.00
US Treasury	1,145.00
Outstanding N Plaque	204.57
Stamps	165.00
Envelopes	15.15
Printer Toner	106.99
	1,937.99
Current Balances	2,452.61
Checking	1,054.27
Savings	1,358.34
Cash	40.00
	2,452.61

INA Bylaws

The Bylaws can be viewed on the INA website: http://ina.anaclubs.org/ A white copy, of the bylaws, can be obtained by contacting INA Secretary Beverly Ashton, 615 Central Avenue, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Tom Robertson (319) 541-5679 tdrobby@yahoo.com
Programs on - Seated Liberty series; ½ dime, dimes, quarters half dollars & seated dollars..

Brian Fanton (319) 294-4377
Programs on - Grading, Boy and Girl Scout merit badge programs Slabbing, The 'Art of coin collecting'and general numismatic topics.

Carl L. Thurman, Ph.D. (319) 273-2276 thurman@uni.edu
Program on "American Nickels 1866 to 2017

Dean Parr (319) 366-0552 drparr51@gmail.com
Programs on - Foreign coins & World paper money.

Lee Roe(563) 852-3517 hilltopcoin@netins.net
Programs on - Buying and selling coin collections. Slabbing.

Steve Feller.....(319) 393-7052 sfeller@coe.edu
Programs on - POW Scrip, WW II Concentration Camp money, Civil War money, The New Orleans mint, Ancient coins, and other topics.

SHOW COORDINATOR

John Jackson (712) 274-9195 jjcoin1@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Chris Seuntjens.....(515) 251-4031 chris@christophersjewelry.com

WEBMASTER

Dean Parr(319) 366-0552 drpar51@gmail.com

When and where Coin Clubs Meet

Ames ------ Last Wednesday, Senior Citizens Center, 7:00 PM Kirk Nichols @ (515) 232-9222

Burlington -------- Fourth Tuesday, No meeting in Dec., Burlington Public Library, 210 Court St., 5:30 PM, Clarence Mitchell @ (319) 752-6052

Cedar Rapids -- Third Wednesday, Rockwell Collins, Iowa State Training Room, 5070 Rockwell Dr NE, 7:30 PM. Dean Parr (319) 366-0552

Clarion - Fourth Thursday, Pizza Ranch on Main St, 7:00 PM, Boyd LaRue @ (515) 460-5681 or Bill Soesbe @ (515) 532-2155

Decorah ----- First Tuesday. V. F. W. Building basement , 104 State St 7:30 PM, Dave Sanderson @ (563) 568-2371

Dubuque ---------- First Thursday, A&W-OKY DOKY, 1st & Locust St, Upstairs at 7:00 PM Neil Aitchison @ (563) 590-9623

Des Moines -- First Tuesday, St. Marks Episcopal Church, 3120 E 24th, 7:00 PM, Larry Carlberg @ (515) 480-7334

Fort Dodge ------- Second Thursday, ICCC East Campus, 7:00 PM, Sam Ashton @ (515)573-3033

Glenwood Coin Club - Second Thursday, Glenwood Coin Shop, 13 North Vine Street, Suite 2, 7:00 PM, Tom Flynn (712) 527-4321

Grinnell ------- Second Monday, First Baptist Church, 925 East Street, Grinnel, IA 7:00 PM, George Fowler @ (641) 236-3549

Hiawatha ------- Fourth Wednesday (except June & July), Hiawatha Library 150 W Willman St (or the shop) 7:00 PM, Brian Fanton @ (319) 294-4377

Keokuk ------- Third Thursday every month. Lost Canvass Studio, 711 Main Street, Keokuk, Iowa 6:00 PM, Tom Gardner @ (515) 292-9047

Old Capitol (Iowa City) -------- Second Tuesday, Veteran's Administration Hospital (Third floor cafeteria), Hwy 6, 7:00 PM Tom Robertson @ (319) 351-2512

Oskaloosa --- Second Thursday each month, 103 High Avenue, 7:00 PM Clarence Mckee @ (641) 672-2763

Port City (Muscatine) - Fourth Tuesday, (no meetins June, July, August & Dec) Musco Lighting, 2107 Stewart Rd., Muscatine 7 PM, Jim Burr (563) 262-9313

Quad City (Moline, IL) - Third Thursday, Calvary Lutheran Church, Avenue of the Cities and 29th St, 7:00 PM, Jeff Struve (309) 737-0206

Siouxland (Sioux City) - First Tuesday, First United Methodist Church, 1915 Nebraska Street, 7:00 PM. John Jackson @ (712) 274-9195

Storm Lake - Second Tuesday, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., 119 West 6th Street, 7:00 PM, Russ Post @ (712) 284-2110

Wadena - Third Thursday, Historical Center, West Union, IA, 7:30 PM Dr. James E. Ralls @ (319) 283-4440

Waterloo/Cedar Falls - Second Tuesday, Waterloo Arts & Rec. Center, First & Commercial Streets, 6:30 PM, Dennis Bracken (319) 231-8385

Dear I.N.A. Member

The 2020 year is here. We encourage you to support the I.N.A. with your ad in The Collector. The rates are.

Full Page **$100.00** **Half Page** **$60.00**

Quarter Page **$30.00**

Ad rates for private shows will be prorated from the normal yearly advertising rates.

Full page ads for INA Coin Clubs are $10.00. Non INA Coin Clubs are $25.00.

There are 3 issues of our deluxe publication, with a 4th issue when needed. Anyone would be proud to have their ad in "The Collector". We try to get articles and information for the good of our members. We encourage everyone to write an article concerning numismatic information which might help other collectors, especially our new members.

Thank you for your sponsorship!

Chris Seuntjens
3427 Merle Hay Rd.,
Des Moines, IA 50310

The Iowa Collector is published 3 times a year
Publication dates:
January, May, & September

2020 Coin Show Calendar

Sept 20 - Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Gardens Inn,2702 Mid American Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407(720-3355

Oct - 10-11 - INA's 82nd Annual Convention & Coin Show- Holiday Inn 4800 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, IA (9-5), (10-3)
Chris Seuntjens (515) 988-3225

Oct 18 - Tri-State-Coin Show -diamond Joe's Casino,302 Bell Street, Dubuque, IA (9-4) Richard Hilard (563) 557-7210

Oct 18 - Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Gardens Inn,2702 Mid American Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407(720-3355

Nov 15 - Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Gardens Inn,2702 Mid American Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407(720-3355

Dec 20 - Monthly Collectors Coin Show - Hilton Gardens Inn,2702 Mid American Dr., Council Bluffs, IA (9-3) Ed Bishop (407(720-3355

82nd

INA Convention & Coin Show

Oct 9, 10, 11

Holiday Inn
4800 Merle Hay Road
Des Moines, Iowa

82nd

IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATIONS CONVENTION &COIN SHOW

Holiday Inn

4800 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines, Iowa

Friday, October 9, 2020

3 p.m. - 7 p.m. (Dealer set up and early birds

Saturday, October 10, 2020

7 a.m. - 9 a.m. (Dealer set up and early birds)

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Open to the public

Free educational speakers Saturday afternoon

Sunday, October 11, 2020

INA breakfast 7:15 a.m.

8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. (Dealer set-up and early birds)

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Open to the public

Masks are recommended
but nor required.
Check the INA website for
last minute show changes
www.ina.anaclubs.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Chris Seuntjens

Christopher's
RARE COINS

8761 Northpark Court
Johnston, IA 50131
515-251-4031
chris@christophersjewelry.com

Hosted by the Des Moines Coin Club

We respectfully request that those who attend the seminars wear safety masks.



Scott Hansen

Saturday October 10th 1:00 p.m.

Topic: Money in Early Iowa (Coins, Currency and Exonumia)

Scott picked up the numismatic "bug" in third grade, after attending a public library event on coin collecting for kids. By junior high, his collecting interest expanded to paper money. Scott enjoys collecting coins and currency of all types, but his main interest (for the past 35 years) are Iowa obsolete currency and U.S. Fractional Currency. He is a member of the INA, ANA, SPMC, and FCCB. Scott is currently President of the Ames Coin Club.



Cody Regennetter

Saturday October 10th 2 p.m.

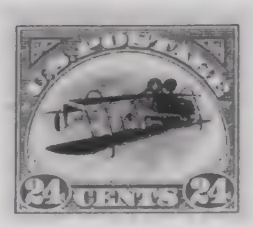
Tpoic: Iowa National Bank notes.

Cody's interests in numismatics began when he was five when his family was tearing down an old barn on their farm. His grandpa found an 1853 Large Cent in the dirt, gave it to Cody and he was hooked! Cody moved from collecting coins to currency over a decade ago. He collects Iowa Nationals by Charter and Size and Chicago Small Size Nationals by Charter and Denomination. He also collects Iowa Trade Tokens. Cody is co-creator of the Facebook group: National Bank Note Collectors which unites National collectors form all around the globe.

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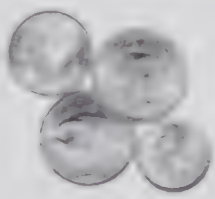


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Partially funded by the EPNNES

Fall Iowa Token Collectors Meeting

Saturday September 19, 2020

Fall Tokens Collectors Meeting

Address

1727 53rd Street (Highway65)

Mt. Auburn, Iowa 52313

(4 miles west of Mt. Auburn)

9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.





We will meet in a large 3000 sq. ft. farm building with plenty of room for social distancing. Face masks preferred. Food will include: Pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, brownies/cookies, bottled water, and coffee. Cost: Free will offering. Restroom facilities are available inside the building, Guests and newcomers welcome.

Bring your tokens and medals, to buy, sell, or trade

Gary Henderson will be in attendance with information on his new Iowa Town Medals Book.

Questions??

Call Tom Robertson at 319- 541 or email tdrobby@ yahoo.com

What was the name of the Philadelphia Mints mascot Bald Eagle?

A. Robert C. Peter

B. Steve D. George

In what year did the mirror finish appear on the proof Lincoln Cent?

A. 1909 C. 1936

B. 1914 D 1942

Answers to above inside back cover page

Established in 1938 the Iowa Numismatic Association was formed as a non-profit organization to bring together and educate those persons interested in numismatics. To encourage those individuals entering into the field of numismatics to study the history of the world through the art of coin, currency, and exonumia collecting. To provide an educational forum for Iowa numismatists to share their interests and knowledge with prospective new collectors.

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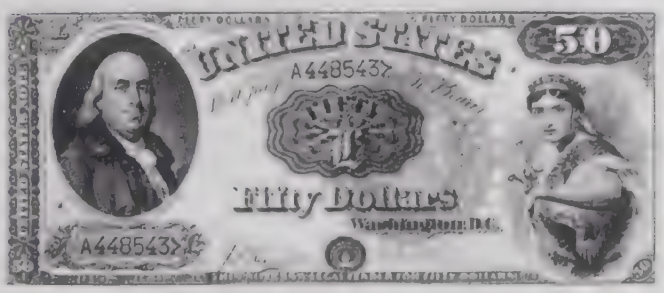
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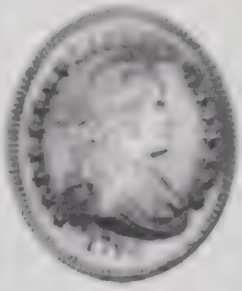
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Almost A Century of Proof Quarters

by *Mark Benvenuto*

The United States Mint has pounded out a veritable river of proof commemorative coins since what we call the modern proof program started back in 1982. Many of these proofs are more common than their uncirculated counterparts since people often had the choice of ordering the version they liked directly from the Mint. But the proof version of our circulating coinage has a history that goes back much farther. And while proofs have been sold in sets for decades, many of them have been broken out of those sets and become parts of collections as individual pieces. Almost always, this was not bad treatment of those coins on the part of collectors. No, in the earliest days the proofs were hardly packaged in the durable, permanent cases used now. And so, since proofs were sold in rather flimsy containers, it's not difficult today to find them as singles, sometimes for rather attractive prices. Let's focus on one attractive coin and see just how attractive those price tags might be. Let's look at the proof Washington quarters.

The true classics, 1936 – 1942

The proof coinage program of the United States Mint produces millions of sets per year now, but back when proof set sales were conceived of, in 1936, the numbers were tiny. In that inaugural year, as it were, the official total was only 3,837, and the total only rose to 21,123 in 1942. As expected, with numbers this low, the expense for one of them can be rather high. Curiously, that 1936 comes in at about $1,250 for a PF-65 specimen. There's probably not too much argument that this is an expensive quarter. But what makes that number curious is that the 1939 and the 1940 proofs only ring up at about $200 each, while the 1941 and 1942 proofs are listed in the major price lists as about $100 each, all of these in PF-65. Coins this rare at prices this low are definitely worth considering. The big challenge here is probably finding one. There can't be this many proof examples of Mr. Washington's fine face available, even at a big show, or in a well-stocked dealer's inventory.

The proofs revived, 1950 – 1964

When the Mint got back into the business of striking some proofs, in 1950, they went all in – at least when compared to what came before. That year the fine folks in Philadelphia (where proofs were struck at the time) minted 51,386 proof sets. By 1953 the total had climbed to 128,800, an important milestone. And by 1957 the total had risen into the seven figure zone, 1,247,952 proof sets. That too is a pretty important milestone. By just about any measure we can claim that proofs became common in 1957. It doesn't take the most imaginative of folks to realize that as the number

of proof sets rose, the price tag for singles that had been broken out of them must have dropped. And indeed they did. The 1950 Washington quarter only runs about $50 in PF-65. If you want to aim for a higher piece, a real star for the collection, a PF-67 example lists as a $150 coin. That's not too bad at all for a proof quarter that we still get to claim as scarce. If those two price tags are good news, the numbers for the 1953 and the 1957 are even better. How about $50 for the former, and $25 for the latter, both as PF-67 examples? No matter what lens we peer through, those are excellent prices. Without calling for a spoiler alert, we'll say that the cost for any of the years from 1958 – 1964 are even lower, since the number of proofs continued to rise, with only one minor dip in 1958.

Base metal proofs, 1968 – 1992

If the just-mentioned values for some handsome proofs weren't impressive enough, well, how about checking out those for the years when proof coinage didn't have any silver in it? In 1968 the number of proof sets was over three million (pretty much the same as the 1961 – 1964 stretch of time), and the amount of money we'll have to part with for a proof Washington – now with the 'S' mint mark – is a whopping $11 in a grade such as PF-67. Seriously. A coin at this amazing grade costs only about $11. Now, an interesting note about the proof quarters in these years is that the standard price listings now start to include grades such as PF-69DC, meaning proof-69 with a deep cameo finish.

Yes, these will cost more, some of them much more, but by the mid 1970's, even these prices drop to $20 - $30. If that doesn't make us wake up and take note, it's probably time to check for a pulse, as we may be dead.

Modern proofs in classic silver, 1992 – right now!

It was 1992 that saw the first of what are now the modern proof sets with the classic silver composition in them for dimes, quarters, and half dollars. This gives us two possibilities for each year. And while the truly frugal collectors among us will claim that they want to stick with the base metal versions, the proof silver versions generally cost about $10 in a grade like PF-65, and $20 in that upper crust PF-69DC grade. Once again, amazing. If the twenty-five cent pieces sporting the father of our country have been off any of our radars, this might be a good time to wake up, take stock of just what is out there, and make it a numismatic quest to see just how many proof quarters we can put together. For just a few hundred dollars we can assemble several decades of these pieces as glittering gems. This can indeed be a fun challenge – good luck to those of us who undertake it!

The Tools of a Professional Coin Grader

By *Steve Feltner*

I was hired by PCGS as a professional vintage grader almost a decade ago. At the time, my only industry experience was working at some local coin shops and helping out at a few trade shows a year. I had taken several grading courses put on by the ANA, which is where my talent was first noticed. To say that I was both excited and nervous when I walked into the grading room on my first day would have been a major understatement. But, I had some experience in grading, and I was absolutely willing to learn from some of the best coin graders in the world. In this article, I hope to describe some of the proverbial tools that professional graders use to their advantage when determining the condition of your coins.

Lighting: One of the most important considerations when grading coins is lighting. Investing in proper lighting can help avoid costly mistakes from being made. The best conditions for grading coins is a completely dark room with a single light source. The best lamps to use have a "bell" end that covers the lightbulb completely. This allows the light source to be manipulated without any light pollution to occur. The best bulbs to use for grading coins are 75- to 100-watt incandescent. My personal preference is 75-watt, as it doesn't burn quite as hot and isn't as harsh on my eyes over long periods of time.

Handling: Proper handling techniques are imperative to keeping your coins as original as possible. Our natural skin oils, sweat, and debris on our hands can have possible negative effects on the surfaces of coins. Many coins which have been mishandled in the past have fingerprints, spots, corrosion, and other issues. It is always good practice to wash your hands before inspecting coins. Any collectible coin should be handled with care and by the edge. Most coins do not require wearing gloves to handle. The possible exception to this would be in the case of high-grade vintage copper coins. Copper is more susceptible to the elements than silver or gold. When transferring a coin to another person, make sure that the coin is received by the edge. Alternatively, the coin may be placed on a clean surface like a felt pad or placed into a flip and handed over. Also, avoid leaving raw coins in open air allows dust particles or moisture to accumulate. Best practice is to house it in a flip then inside a clean, dry box.

Magnification: Like a carpenter should have the correct tools for the job, so should a grader.

One of the most important tools for a grader is a loupe, or magnifying glass. Like anything else, and definitely the case for polished glass, you get what you pay for. Many less-expensive options can create bends and distortion around the edges. A good glass will have a consistent magnification and clarity from the center to the edge. The most common loupes found with graders and discerning collectors will be from 5X to 10X power. Anything higher than 10 will generally only be used for counterfeit detection, variety attribution, and numeric grade limiting problems. The proper way to use a loupe is to bring it all the way up to your eye, only a few millimeters away, then bring the coin up to the glass until it is in focus. The most common mistake with a loupe is using it at arms-length to view a coin. This doesn't give the user a complete field of vision and clarity.

Rotation: Proper rotation under a light source is imperative to seeing any imperfection that a coin may have. One of the most common mistakes when learning how to grade coins is to place the coin under a light, look at the coin, and immediately determine the condition. A coin should be rotated under the light freely. If a certain area of the coin is suspect, turn the coin to another angle and rotate it. For example, based on the design of Saint-Gaudens Double Eagles, cleaning wipes are easily hidden in the eagle's wings. If the coin is viewed without rotating it 90 degrees, the cleaning can actually remain hidden. Another time that a coin should be completely rotated is assessing for full bands on Mercury Dimes. If rotated 90 degrees, with the bands being viewed "up and down" from the viewer, it is easier to determine if they are full. Many issues, like PVC or other materials being added to the surfaces of coins, can be determined by holding the coin vertical to the light source. The added substances will often show by a color change and or a dead spot of luster on the coin's surface.

Numismatic knowledge: One of the most important, and often overlooked, areas of grading is in having a solid foundation of numismatic knowledge. Understanding the different methods of manufacture, alloys used, and grade-limiting factors are vital for any experienced grader. It becomes common knowledge after some time of grading that 1926-S Buffalo Nickels are notoriously weakly struck when compared to 1926 Phillies. As such, 1926-S specimens will not reach the same high grades (MS66 and above) that 1926 Phillies easily can. The same holds true for 1925-S Peace Dollars, which is why the spread from MS64 to MS65 is so great.

One of the starkest contrasts in regard to strike can be found on Pioneer Gold. The coins that were minted by private individuals, usually with gold discovered during the gold rush, generally show a lack of design detail that is commonly seen on most government issues. The coin that I have chosen to illustrate this difference is a beautifully preserved 1850 Moffat $5 that has been graded by PCGS as MS63. You can see the weakness in strike around Lady Liberty's hair curls and also on the eagle's feathers. Many novice numismatists would misinterpret this lack of detail as wear. However, when you look at the coin, there are no luster breaks on the high points or in the fields. Contrast this coin with a Philadelphia issue of the same year and same grade. The Philadelphia coin is razor sharp in strike, but they both carry the same numeric grade. This is where numismatic knowledge becomes a major factor in the grade of a coin.



Whether you're a novice grader or more experienced, following these simple tips can be beneficial in improving your accuracy. The fundamentals of grading are absolutely key and should be employed every time you pick up a coin.

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Acquire and disseminate numismatic knowledge.
Generally represent numismatic interests throughout the State of Iowa.

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Any person between the ages of 0 and 18 years old and sponsored by a senior member may be considered for junior membership. Junior members may not hold office, but may vote for elective offices. Dues to be $5.00 per year.

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Officers are elected every two years by membership vote, by mail ballot, and take office at the annual convention following election. Officers consist of 16 members, including the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents, the Secretary Treasurer, the immediate Past-President, and 11 Directors.

The annual membership meeting is held each year at the Iowa Numismatic Associations Annual Convention held in the fall.

The Iowa Collector, the official bulletin, is published three times each year and sent to each member. The I.N.A., upon request, will help the heirs of any member in good standing find a qualified person or persons, in his area, to appraise an estate.

For further information about the I.N.A. contact any member, director or officer. An application has been enclosed with this issue of The Iowa Collector. To join fill it in and send it along with your check to:

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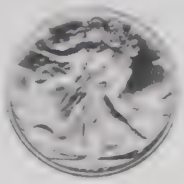
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The Story of Peter the Mint Eagle

By Joshua McMorrow-Hernandez

Many folks know Peter, the Mint Eagle to be the friendly avian mascot of the United States Mint. But perhaps far fewer people realize that Peter isn't just a fictional, anthropomorphic bird. He was also once a live bald eagle who resided at the Philadelphia Mint. Peter was one of reportedly several bald eagles that still graced the skies of Philadelphia during the early years of the 19th century. Legend has it that, by day, Peter stalked the skies over the city and by night flew into the building through an open window and took up residence inside the facility.

The mint employees, who named him "Peter," loved him dearly and those living in the surrounding neighborhood did, too, including the many children on the block. The friendly eagle soon became the mint's unofficial mascot. Peter's time at the Philadelphia Mint lasted years, by most accounts six, and likely from around 1830 through 1836, though others suggest his stint at the mint may have occurred as late as the 1850s.

While these – and other details about Peter – are largely unanswered in documentation the end of his life sadly and unequivocally came while he was perched on a flywheel that suddenly lurched into operation. Mint employees stopped the coin press immediately but unfortunately Peter's wing was caught up in the apparatus. The staff did all they could to save their beloved Peter, but he succumbed to his injuries within a few days. He was mounted by an expert taxidermist and still resides at the United States Mint today

continued on page 37.

Peter's Legacy

While Peter's life came to an abrupt end, he continues serving the United States Mint in a variety of ways. Numismatic scholars believe he may have directly served as a model for the Gobrecht Dollar patterns designed by the titular Christian Gobrecht from 1836 through 1839. It is likely his effigy was also used by James Longacre to design the Flying Eagle Cents of 1856 through 1858.

Peter's likeness has been used by other engravers either formally or informally in designing a variety of other eagle motifs in the years since. However, Peter's posthumous role at the United States Mint hasn't just been that of resident model bald eagle. He has also long served as the mint's gregarious mascot. A larger-than-life Peter often appears at various public events hosted or sponsored by the United States Mint – certainly much to the delight of children (and adults) of all ages. Peter also has a role on the United States Mint's H.I.P. Pocket Change site designed especially for kids.

Visit Peter

Philadelphia has many sites dedicated to its pop-culture icons… One can run the "Rocky steps" in front of the Philadelphia Museum of Art as seen in the famous Rocky movie series – adjacent to the museum at 2600 Benjamin Franklin Parkway is a large statue of the "Rocky" character as immortalized by actor Sylvester Stallone. Hope to visit the Liberty Bell? See the historic 2,080-pound cracked bell at Independence National Historical Park at 526 Market Street. And want a good Philly cheesesteak? Ooooh… There are heated opinions aplenty on who makes the best, so we dare not get that political in this article!

But if you want to say hello to Peter, the Mint Eagle? You can do that at the Philadelphia Mint, located at 151 N. Independence Mall E. An entire display on the mezzanine floor is dedicated to the famous bald eagle. And it is there that Peter will be found, his wings outstretched, his beak slightly agape, his talons primed for action. Peter proudly flies on nearly 200 years after his storied and colorful life at the United States Mint.

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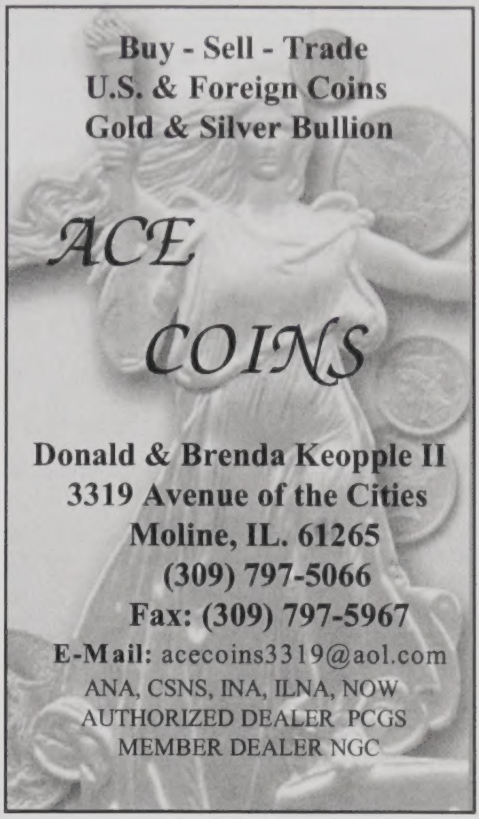
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